1 1. (currently amended) A method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database

2 management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database

3 management system, the method comprising the steps of:

4   making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries

5 and including a first field whose value is a metric value computed from a set of individual

6 values a representation of a set of a field in the plurality of entries and a second field whose

7 value is a representation of the individual values of individual members, the individual members

8 being derived from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality of the entries, the

9 representation specifying the individual members of the set.

1 2. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2   deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 3. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the representation of the set second field's value has a size which varies with the number

3 of the individual members values specified in the representation.

1 4. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 3 wherein:

2   The representation of the set comprises second field's value is a character string, the

3 character string comprising a sequence of characters for each individual member of the set, and

4 separator characters separating each sequence of characters.

1 5. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   the representation of the set has second field's value has a size which is constant

3 regardless of the number of the individual members in the set.

1 6. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2   the representation of the set second field's value comprises a string of elements, the string

3 of elements comprising having an element corresponding to each potential member of the value

4 of the individual values that belong to the set, the presence of a particular individual member

5 value in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the absence of

6 the particular individual member value from the set being indicated by a second value of the

7 corresponding element.

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1   7. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   in deriving the individual members of the set, the <u>individual</u> values from which the

3   individual members of the set are derived are time values.

1   8. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   in deriving the individual members of the set, the <u>individual</u> values from which the

3   individual members of the set are derived are location values.

1   9. (cancelled)

2   10. (cancelled)

3   11. (cancelled)

4   12. (cancelled)

5   13. (cancelled)

6   14. (cancelled)

7   15. (cancelled)

8   16. (cancelled)

9   17. (cancelled)

10   18. (cancelled)

11   19. (cancelled)

12   20. (cancelled)

13   21. (cancelled)

14   22. (cancelled)

15   23. (cancelled)

16   24. (cancelled)

1   25. (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2   the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs

3   aggregation of a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an

4   aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the code

5   comprising instructions for:

6   making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries

7   and including a <u>first field whose value is a metric value computed from a set of individual</u>

8   <u>values of a field in the plurality of entries and a second field whose value is a representation of</u>

9   <u>the individual values.</u> field whose value is a representation of a set of individual members, the

3

10   ~~individual members being derived from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality of~~

11   ~~the entries, the representation specifying the individual members of the set.~~

1   26. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in

2   that: the code further comprises:

3   instructions for deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1   27. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in

2   that:

3   the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value has a size which varies with the number

4   of the individual ~~members specified in the representation~~values.

1   28. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in

2   that:

3   The ~~representation of the set comprises~~second field's value is a character string, the

4   character string comprising a sequence of characters for each individual ~~member of the set~~value,

5   and separator characters separating each sequence of characters.

1   29. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in

2   that:

3   the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value has a size which is constant regardless of

4   the number of the individual ~~members in the set~~values.

1   30. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in

2   that:

3   the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value comprises a string of elements, the string

4   of elements ~~comprising~~having an element corresponding to each potential ~~member of the~~

5   ~~set~~value of the individual values that belong to the set, the presence of a particular individual

6   ~~member in the set~~value being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the

7   absence of the particular individual ~~member from the set~~value being indicated by a second value

8   of the corresponding element.

1   31. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in

2   that:

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3 ~~in deriving the individual members of the set,~~ the <u>individual</u> values ~~from which the~~

4 ~~individual members of the set are derived~~ are time values.

1 32. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in

2 that:

3 ~~in deriving the individual members of the set,~~ the <u>individual</u> values ~~from which the~~

4 ~~individual members of the set are derived~~ are location values.

1 33. (cancelled)

2 34. (cancelled)

3 35. (cancelled)

4 36. (cancelled)

5 37. (cancelled)

6 38. (cancelled)

7 39. (cancelled)

8 40. (cancelled)

9 41. (cancelled)

10 42. (cancelled)

11 43. (cancelled)

12 44. (cancelled)

13 45. (cancelled)

14 46. (cancelled)

15 47. (cancelled)

16 48. (cancelled)

49. (new) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in claim 1
wherein:
     the entries belonging to the plurality indicate occurrences of an event in the
database management system, the occurrences being recorded by a management
service in the database management system.

50. (new) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in claim 49 further
comprising the step of:
     deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

51. (new) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in claim 50
wherein:
     the individual values indicate times of occurrence of the event of interest.

52. (new) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in claim 50
wherein:
     the individual values indicate places of occurrence of the event of interest.

53. (new) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 wherein:
     the entries belonging to the plurality indicate occurrences of an event in the
database management system, the occurrences being recorded by a management
service in the database management system.

54. (new) The data storage device set forth in claim 53 wherein the code further
comprises:
     instructions for deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated
entry.

55. (new) The data storage device set forth in claim 54 wherein:
     the individual values indicate times of occurrence of the event of interest.

56. (new) The data storage device set forth in claim 54 wherein:
     the individual values indicate places of occurrence of the event of interest.